

Message Text

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ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 L-03 ACDA-12
NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 SP-02 ICA-11 TRSE-00 NSC-05
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R 171315Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9224
SECDEF WASHDC
INFO USMISSION USNATO
USNMR SHAPE
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE
CINCUSAFE
HQ 3AF RAF MILDENHALL

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 13231

DEFENSE ALSO FOR BARRINGER, OASD/ISA/FMRA AND CSAF

E. O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: UK MPOL MILI NATO
SUBJECT: USE OF RED HORSE SQUADRON IN UK

REF: STATE 185802, AUG/77

1. SUMMARY: WILBERFORCE, HEAD, DEFENCE DEPARTMENT, FCO, HAS WRITTEN GIVING HMG APPROVAL FOR STATIONING OF RED HORSE SQUADRON AT RAF WETHERSFIELD FROM JANUARY 1979. END SUMMARY.
2. AS HMG APPROVAL RESTS ON USG ACCEPTANCE ON AN AGREED CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS WE QUOTE TEXT OF WILBERFORCE'S 15 AUGUST LETTER TO POL-MIL ATTACHE IN FULL:

"YOUR LETTER TO ME OF 10 AUGUST 1977 GAVE FORMAL NOTIFICATION THAT THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE INTENDED
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TO DISCUSS WITH THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE THE POSSIBILITY OF STATIONING IN THE UNITED KINGDOM A RED HORSE SQUADRON OF SOME 400 MEN TO UNDERTAKE RAPID RUNWAY REPAIR IN WARTIME.

"AS YOU KNOW, THIS PROPOSAL WAS SUBSEQUENTLY DISCUSSED AT A MEETING BETWEEN HQ THIRD AIR FORCE, USAF/DER AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

WHICH WAS HELD ON 26 SEPTEMBER 1977. IN CORRESPONDENCE THEREAFTER, COLONEL POTTER OF USAF/DER PROVIDED US WITH A DETAILED CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS. THIS INCLUDED AN ASSURANCE THAT THERE WAS NO INTENTION OF THE RED HORSE SQUADRON CARRYING OUT WORK THAT WOULD NORMALLY BE GIVEN TO A PSA CONTRACTOR OR ITS DIRECTLY EMPLOYED LABOUR AND THAT PSA PERSONNEL WOULD NOT NORMALLY BE REQUIRED FOR ANY TRAINING EXERCISES.

"PSA IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE STANDARD OF ANY "WORKS SERVICES" UNDERTAKEN BY OTHER AGENTS ON RAF STATIONS, WHETHER OCCUPIED BY THE RAF OR MADE AVAILABLE TO USAF

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R 171315Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
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USNMR SHAPE
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE
CINCUSAFE
HQ 3AF RAF MILDENHALL

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OR ANY OTHER ORGANIZATION. THIS INCLUDES ENSURING THAT SUCH SERVICES CONFORM TO UK GOVERNMENT LEGISLATION, SUCH AS THAT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY AT WORK, AND TO LOCAL BY-LAWS. THEY ALSO HAVE AN INTEREST BECAUSE OF THEIR RESPONSIBILITY FOR FUTURE MAINTENANCE OF ANY CONSTRUCTION WORKS. THEY MUST ALSO HAVE REGARD TO THE INTERESTS OF PSA PERSONNEL, WITH THOSE REPRESENTATIVES THE TERMS ON WHICH THE RED HORSE SQUADRON MIGHT UNDERTAKE WORK, OTHER THAN THE WARTIME TASK OF RUNWAY REPAIR,

HAVE BEEN NEGOTIATED. IT WAS, THEREFORE, ALSO AGREED THAT ANY TRAINING TASKS WHICH THE SQUADRON MIGHT WISH TO UNDERTAKE IN PEACE TIME AND WHICH WOULD INVOLVE "WORKS SERVICES" WOULD BE SUBJECT TO THE AGREEMENT OF THE PSA.

"WE WERE LATER INFORMED THAT THE US WISHED THE SQUADRON TO BE BASED AT RAF WETHERSFIELD FROM JANUARY L979.

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"I AM PLEASED TO BE ABLE TO INFORM YOU THAT HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT HAS NOW APPROVED THIS PROPOSAL, ON THE UNDERSTANDING THAT THE DEPLOYMENT WILL BE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS MENTIONED ABOVE.

"AS REGARDS THE SUGGESTION IN DR. BROWN'S LETTER OF 27 JUNE TO MR. MULLEY ABOUT THE POSSIBLE USE OF THE RED HORSE SQUADRON AT RAF FAIRFORD, WE WOULD SEE ANY DISCUSSIONS ABOUT THIS AS TAKING PLACE WITHIN THE GENERAL CONSULTATIONS REFERRED TO ABOVE ABOUT TRAINING TASKS INVOLVING 'WORKS SERVICES' WHICH THE SQUADRON MAY WISH TO UNDERTAKE IN PEACE TIME.

"WE LOOK FORWARD TO RECEIVING IN DUE COURSE FOR FORMAL UK CLEARANCE THE TEXT OF ANY PRESS ANNOUNCEMENTS WHICH THE US MIGHT WISH TO MAKE ABOUT THIS DEPLOYMENT. THIS WILL ENABLE US TO ENSURE THAT THE PROCESS OF INFORMING OUR STAFF, MPS AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES CAN BE COORDINATED WITH ANY RELEASE OF INFORMATION TO THE PRESS. MEANWHILE, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THE PROPOSAL SHOULD REMAIN CONFIDENTIAL."

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Message Attributes

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